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**VIA ECFS**

***EX PARTE***

March 22, 2013

Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *WC Docket No. 10-90, Connect America Fund; WC Docket No. 05-337, High-Cost Universal Service Support*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On March 20, 2013, Eric Einhorn of Windstream Corporation (“Windstream”) spoke by telephone with Michael Steffen, Legal Advisor to Chairman Julius Genachowski, and Carol Matthey, Deputy Chief of the Wireline Competition Bureau about potential modifications to the Connect America Fund (“CAF”) Phase I program.

Consistent with its prior advocacy and the joint comments submitted by USTelecom, ITTA, and the ABC Coalition,<sup>1</sup> Windstream emphasized the need to ensure that only those areas that actually are served by 4/1 Mbps broadband—by an incumbent local exchange carrier and/or an unsubsidized competitor—would be excluded from eligibility for CAF Phase I support. Windstream also explained that it would expect that a majority of currently unserved<sup>2</sup> customers in an area that is enabled for 4/1 Mbps service through the CAF Phase I program actually would receive broadband speeds greater than 4/1 Mbps.

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<sup>1</sup> See Comments of Windstream Corporation, WC Docket No. 10-90 (filed Jan. 9, 2013); Comments of the United States Telecom Association, Independent Telephone & Telecommunications Alliance, and the ABC Coalition, WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 05-337 (filed Jan. 28, 2013); Reply Comments of the United States Telecom Association, the Independent Telephone & Telecommunications Alliance, and the ABC Coalition, WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 05-337 (filed Feb. 11, 2013).

<sup>2</sup> See *Connect America Fund*, WC Docket No. 10-90, Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, at ¶ 9 (Nov. 19, 2012) (proposing to define an “unserved” area as an area lacking access to 4/1 Mbps broadband service).

Please feel free contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Malena F. Barzilai

Malena F. Barzilai

cc: Michael Steffen  
Carol Matthey